I take it that the Demand of Rs. 5·12 lakhs under Demand III—Excise Department—is passed by the House.

The demand was carried and the grant was made.

DEMAND IV—FOREST.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7·95 lakhs under Demand IV—Forest.

Motion 62.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara cum Kartikapalli*): I beg to move the following motion:

62. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 10,000 for Establishment by Rs. 480.

The reasons for the reduction are generally the same as those which I expressed when making similar motions with regard to other offices. In this case, there is a Personal Assistant, a Manager and several other officers and clerks to help the Conservator. So, I hope it will not be in any way derogatory to the efficiency of the department to reduce one clerk on Rs. 40.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I may, in this connection, explain to the House that the Forest Department was reorganised only as recently as in 1098. Before the reorganisation, the Conservator's office was staffed by 28 clerks, besides three or four temporary clerks. But, after the reorganisation, the staff was reduced to 23, and the Manager was declared supernumerary. In the place of that supernumerary Manager, there was also a place of clerk on Rs. 40 left vacant. This reorganisation was effected during the time of my predecessor Mr. Raman Menon, and I had nothing to do with it. It is now three years since I took charge of the department, and ever since that time, I found that the staff was quite inadequate for the volume of work to be turned out. We had several instances in which large arrears accumulated, and, in this House itself we had heard of complaints that we had not paid promptly *kudivila* to some of the claimants. In that connection, I had asked for an additional staff of seven clerks both for my office and the Divisional Offices. At present, the staff in my office consists of only 23 clerks, but the brunt of the work is being borne by about a dozen clerks, the remaining clerks being mostly juniors. The result of all this is that, while the work had been accumulating, we are not also able to attend to the arrears which had accumulated. From the list which I have, here, I find that completion bills from 1085 onwards are pending, while *kudivila* claims amounting approximately to 2½ lakhs of rupees are still pending settlement. Objection statements of timber to be cleared alone come up to 400 and odd. Recently the work of answering interpellations has also added to this quota. Under these circumstances, I find that the reduction of hands will only throw off the equilibrium of the office and we may not be able to cope with the work.

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MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): This has always been the plea that the staff has been considerably reduced and the work will not be efficiently done unless the existing number of clerks and others is kept up. That is the usual plea. But of course from the popular side I have to say that efficiency is not ensured by the number of hands that is employed but by the amount of supervision and the amount of fear the subordinates have for the superior officers and for the public or the representatives of the public. So, from the people's point of view, under the present circumstances, it seems to me that it is only right for the representatives of the people to claim such reduction in all offices; and the Forest Department, especially the Conservator's office, is not one which is undermanned. That is the general opinion. Until the Government allow some kind of control and supervision to the representatives of the people in the working of the different departments, I think the people are always justified in demanding such reductions. On that principle, I press the motion.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): I have nothing more to add to what I have already said. All the same I may say that, during the re-organisation, we had allowed a reduction of five clerks and it is not possible to reduce any further unless at the sacrifice of efficiency.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): May I ask how many clerks he has got in his Department who are above 55 years of age?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): There is no clerk.

PRESIDENT: I will now put the motion to the vote.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): I believe the member has withdrawn the motion.

PRESIDENT: I thought the member said he was pressing the motion.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I do not press the motion. (*Laughter.*)

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, then I beg to withdraw my vote (*Laughter.*)

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 63.

The following motion was not moved:

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI:

63. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 26,000 for travelling allowances by Rs.2,000.

Motion 64.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanacherry* cum *Peermade*): Sir, I beg to move the following motion:

64. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·95 lakhs under Demand IV by Rs. 100.

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My object in bringing this motion is only to bring to the notice of the Government and the House the policy of the Forest Department and to urge that the policy now followed in conserving greater areas of land is not acceptable to the people. At the 14th session of the Popular Assembly, the Dewan, in his address, stated that there was little scope for further forest reservation in Travancore. It is about six years from that day and I find still the Forest Department craving for more and more of Travancore territory to be concealed under its patronising authority. The people of the country, Sir, want more lands for cultivation. There are people in several taluks undergoing great hardship for want of land. To cite one example, I would refer to the notification published this year with the view of reserving about 2,400 acres of land in Rani *pakuthi* under the name of Rani Extension Reserve. I had interpellated Government upon that matter but no answers have been given. However, so far as my information goes, most of the lands proposed to be constituted as a reserve have been cleared of jungle growth. There are no trees standing upon the area. In the midst of the land, I understand, there is a temple and there are also persons living around it. I am also informed that there are about 700 persons who have within a period of seven years or more been living within the area and have built small cottages and houses. About three-fourths of that area is planted up with permanent improvements, namely, rubber, cocoanut, pepper and other valuable growth; and I cannot understand the policy of the Government in constituting that area as a reserve forest and ejecting all those persons who are in occupation of the land. Though the proprietorship may belong to Government, it is the custom of the country that people who do not find sufficient land for cultivation occupy Government land and apply for the same being registered in their names. Government order the registry of these lands in their names after making enquiries and after realising arrears for their occupation. This is not the only instance in which the Government after ejecting the persons in possession of such lands constituted those lands as reserves. More than one-third of the area in the State has been already constituted as reserved forests. I submit that this proportion is probably too high, considering the population of Travancore. The only lands which we can bring under cultivation in Travancore are forest lands. If Government, instead of opening up more forests and allowing people to cultivate those lands, try to conserve them, I submit, it will be a great hardship to the poor people of Travancore who always look to the land for their sustenance.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): For these grounds, I move for a reduction.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Is the member sure that if some of these lands are disposed of, it will not affect the monsoons of the country?

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): The particular reserve to which I made reference has already been denuded of trees

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[Mr. T. J. Matthew.]

Therefore my opinion is that allowing this area to be registered will not in any way interfere with the monsoon.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I wish to support the motion of Mr. Matthew but for somewhat different reasons. On a prior occasion, it was admitted by the Conservator of Forests that from the Forest Department the State need not look to anything like profit or gain. That is my recollection. Now if that is the attitude of the Conservator of Forests, the question legitimately arises why he should reserve additional plots of land. On an analysis of the income and expenditure relating to the Forest Department as shown in the report of administration submitted by the Conservator of Forests, it may be found that the greatest customers of the Forest Department are the various Government Departments. It is according to the tariff rates that these departments are charged by the Forest Department though by open sales it is not able to realise as much revenue as shown by the tariff rates. So an unreal inflation of the price of timber is made. I am pointing out this simply to bring home to the Government that the Department is not bringing in as much revenue as is professed by it. Such being the case, the question legitimately arises whether the Conservator of Forests should be allowed to expand the scope of his activities by grabbing at every piece of land, especially lands already occupied by a multitude of people as mentioned by Mr. Matthew. This certainly is not at all proper. If the Conservator of Forests says that some reserved forests have already been denuded by continued working of the forests, such should be thrown out to the people. On the other hand what he proposes is that even occupied lands may be brought under control by driving people out of such areas. Such a procedure, I am submitting, does not appear to be welcome in the interests of the growing population of Travancore. Hence I have much sympathy with what has been moved by Mr. Matthew.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): I also support the motion of Mr. Matthew. I remember, ever since we have had the privilege of speaking in public about administrative matters, that is, ever since the introduction of the Popular Assembly, more reserved forests are kept than are consistent with the interests of the people. During the last administration, definite attempts were made that as much area should be thrown open for cultivation as possible and several disafforestation committees have been appointed. And they have been working well. Now it is found that the areas already cultivated and occupied by people are sought to be included within the reserve. Now I wish to say that, when Government want to disafforest an area, a committee is appointed to report upon the desirability of disafforestation. I think it is also necessary that, when Government propose to include cultivated and occupied land under reserve, the non-official public should be given an opportunity to give their opinion by membership in such a committee. The income derived from reserved forests is from the value of trees that grow thereon. I think it is the duty of the Department to see that the land already under reserve is made to produce as much as possible

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by proper cultivation and nurture and to see that new trees are planted and the value of the trees in the present reserves and thereby the income of the Department are increased. The department ought to re-consider the advisability of taking more land from the people for being included in the reserve. At the same time, they should make the best of the land they have already got. With these remarks, I very strongly support the motion.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*) : ഞാൻ മിസ്റ്റർ മാത്യൂവിന്റെ ഉൽക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങുന്നു. രാജ്യത്ത് ജനസംഖ്യവർദ്ധിക്കുന്നതനുസരിച്ചു കൃഷിസ്ഥലങ്ങൾ വർദ്ധിക്കാത്തതിനാൽ ദാരിദ്ര്യം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നു എന്ന് എല്ലാവർക്കും അറിയാം. പട്ടണങ്ങളിൽ നിന്നു ഉൾനാടുകളിൽകടന്നു അന്വേഷിക്കുമ്പോഴാണ് അതിന്റെ സൂക്ഷ്മസ്ഥിതി നല്ലവണ്ണം മനസ്സിലാകുന്നത്. ഇതുവരെ കൃഷിയിൽ നിന്നും കൂടുതൽ വിളവുണ്ടാക്കുന്നതിനുള്ള ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിന്റെ പരിശ്രമങ്ങൾ വ്യർത്ഥമായിട്ടാണ് കാണുന്നത്. രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ മൂന്നിൽ ഒരു ഭാഗംമുഴുവനും റിസർവ്വാക്കിയിട്ടിരിക്കുന്നു. മൂന്നിൽ രണ്ടു ഭാഗം ഒരു വലിയ പങ്കാണെങ്കിലും കാടും മറ്റും ഒഴിച്ചാൽ രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണതയിൽ പകുതിയോളം മാത്രമേ റിസർവിനുപുറത്ത് കരയുള്ളൂ. ജനങ്ങൾക്കു വിറകും തടിയുമെല്ലാം അത്യാവശ്യമാണെങ്കിലും അതു സാധനങ്ങൾ കൊണ്ടുമാത്രം ജനങ്ങളുടെ ആവശ്യം മുഴുവനും നിറവേറ്റാൻ സാധിക്കയില്ലല്ലോ. പ്രധാനമായി ആഹാരസാധനങ്ങളും കൃഷിചെയ്യാൻ സ്ഥലവുമാണ് വേണ്ടതു്. അതിനാൽ വലിയ മലമ്പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ ഒഴിച്ച് ശേഷം ഭാഗങ്ങൾ പറയർ പുലയർ മുതലായവർക്കും ഭൂസ്വത്തില്ലാത്ത മറ്റുള്ളവർക്കുമായി പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. രണ്ടുലക്ഷത്തോളം പുലയർ (കൃഷിക്കാർ) ഭൂസ്വത്തില്ലാത്തവരായിട്ടുണ്ട്. അറുപതിനായിരത്തോളം പറയരുമുണ്ട്. അവർ അടിമത്വത്തിൽ നിന്നും ഉണർന്നുവന്നപ്പോൾ ഭൂസ്വത്തെല്ലാം മറ്റാരുടെയോ കയ്യിൽ അകപ്പെട്ടുകഴിഞ്ഞു. ഈ വിധത്തിൽ ദരിദ്രന്മാരായിരിക്കുന്ന ഒരു വലിയ ജനതതിയെ ഉണർത്തി എല്ലാതാലൂക്കുകളിലും മലയോരങ്ങളിൽ ഉള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ലാൻറ്റവന്യൂകമ്മീഷണരും കണ്ട്സർവേയറും വേറെ ഏതെങ്കിലും ഒരു ഉദ്യോഗസ്ഥനും—കൃഷിഡയറക്ടരായാലും തരക്കേടില്ല (ചിരി)—കൂടി പരിശോധിച്ചു ഭൂസ്വത്തില്ലാത്ത വർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കായിപതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതാണ്. ഭൂസ്വത്തില്ലാത്തവർക്കുതന്നെ കുറെശ്ശേ പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കണം. അങ്ങനെ ചെയ്യുന്നതുകൊണ്ടു ഗവർണ്മെൻറിനു ലാഭമല്ലാതെ നഷ്ടംഒന്നും ഉണ്ടാകയില്ല.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : ഏതാനുംതാലൂക്കുകളിലേക്കു ഒരു കമ്മറ്റി നിയമിച്ചിരുന്നു എന്നറിയാമോ?

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MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): ഒരു കമ്മറി ഉണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞാനും കമ്മറിയിൽ ഒരു മെംബർ ആയിരുന്നു അതു ചതുപ്പുനിലം മാത്രം പരിശോധിക്കാനാണ് നിയമിച്ചതു്. ചതുപ്പുനിലമെന്നാലെന്താണെന്നതിനെപറ്റി കമ്മറിയിൽ തക്കമായി ഗവർണ്മെൻറിലേക്കെഴുതി അയച്ചു. "സ്വാംപി ലാൻഡ്" എന്നതിന്റെ അർത്ഥനിർണ്ണയം ചെയ്യുതിൽ വെള്ളംകെട്ടി നിൽക്കുന്ന ഭൂമി എന്നാണ് ഗവർണ്മെൻറു പറഞ്ഞതു്. അങ്ങിനെയുള്ള സ്ഥലം കൃഷിക്കു മിക്കവാറും ഉപയോഗമില്ല. വേനൽക്കാലത്താണ് ഞങ്ങൾ ചെന്നു നോക്കിയതു്. ആ സമയത്തുപോലും വെള്ളം കെട്ടിനിൽക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലമാണു ചതുപ്പുനിലമെന്നു് പറയുന്നത്. നെൽകൃഷിക്കു ഉപയുക്തങ്ങളായ അനേകം പ്രദേശങ്ങൾ റിസർവു വനങ്ങളിലുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങിനേയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽ ക്ഷേത്രങ്ങൾ, കിണറുകൾ, ഗ്രാമങ്ങൾ മുതലായവയുടെ അവശിഷ്ടങ്ങൾ ധാരാളം കാണ്മാനുണ്ടു്. അങ്ങനെയുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ മതി. ആ വിധമുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കാനഭിപ്രായപ്പെടാൻ ആ കമ്മറിക്കധികാരം നൽകിയിരുന്നില്ല. പർവതപ്രദേശങ്ങളും ഉന്നതതടങ്ങളും പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കേണ്ടാ. കൃഷിക്കു നല്ലപ്രദേശങ്ങൾ പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതു് രാജ്യത്തിന്റെ ശ്രേയസ്സിനു നിത്യാവശ്യമാണെന്നുള്ള അഭിപ്രായത്തോടുകൂടി ഞാൻ ഈ ഉൽക്ഷേപത്തെ പിൻതാങ്ങികൊള്ളുന്നു.

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I also support the motion. I am of opinion that it is unnecessary in the interests of the State to retain more than one-third of the whole extent of the State as Reserved Forest. As regards the opinion expressed by Mr. Kunjitomman that these lands ought to be registered in the name of Pulayas, Parayas and other depressed classes, I have one suggestion to make. It is a matter of common knowledge that the present-day educated persons—the graduates and the School Leaving Certificate holders—are hunting after public service. More often they are turned out from the offices because there are no vacancies. I would suggest that if these graduates and other educated persons are sent to the forests (*Laughter*) and they are allowed to get a decent acreage of land registered in their names, they would cultivate lands according to modern methods and thus improve cultivation.

MR. N. V. JOSEPH (*Parur*): May I know whether the member is prepared to lead them? (*Laughter*).

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): May I know from the member whether he has any suggestion to offer as to how we can lead the graduates to the forests?

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MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Mr. Kunjitomman was suggesting that some portions of the reserved forests should be disafforested and registered to Parayas, Pulayas and other depressed classes. I make the suggestion that, if the forests are disafforested, a portion of them may be given to graduates and other educated persons who are desirous of getting some lands so that the land may be cultivated in a better manner.

Most of the non-official members here and the general public of Travancore are not quite satisfied with the present system of the Agricultural Department. Lands may be given to educated persons so that they might improve the lands in a better way than the ordinary illiterate ryots.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I rise to a point of order. Was the member relevant when he spoke about the Agricultural Department while the discussion was about the Forest Department?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I am referring to the suggestion that, if these graduates are encouraged in their attempt at cultivation, perhaps we may expect better and improved cultivation.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Are graduates-in-law hunting after lands?

MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): Perhaps so. Even in Trivandrum I think that some of the practising Vakils had better think of following this suggestion rather than practising as Vakils (*Laughter*). That is my personal opinion. If sufficient acreage of lands is given to these graduates-in-law, I think many of them will leave the profession and take to cultivation which will in the long run be a benefit to the country at large. (Mr. G. Parameswaran Pillai: *Hear, hear.*) With these observations, I resume my seat.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, as was pointed out by Mr. T. J. Matthew, it is a fact that, at the time of the 14th Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, the then Dewan made a statement that there was no scope for further reservation of forests in the State. So far as I know, there has not been a change of policy since then. Mr. Matthew referred to an instance by which he pointed out that a plot of land situated in Nurvakad was recently brought under the Forest Regulation. With regard to this land, I have to point out that the question of reservation of this area came up for decision before the Government long ago and the Government sanctioned its reservation before the 14th Session of the Popular Assembly met. Subsequently, a *jenmi* put forward a claim to this land and after a protracted trial lasting for several years the case was decided by the High Court in favour of Government.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): നുവക്കാട് എന്ന സ്ഥലത്തിൽ തറവില, തടിവില മുതലായവ നിണ്ണയിക്കാൻ ഡിവിഷൻഫോറസ്റ്റാഫീസർ ഫാജൂർആഫീസിൽ നിന്നും അയച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): എനിക്കറിവില്ലാ.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Is there a civil case still pending about the area?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We have nc information.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Is there not a case pending in the Quilon District Court?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): We have no information. Immediately after the decision of the High Court was announced, there was a rush of people on this land and a portion was cleared up. It was the time of the rubber boom when land was greedily taken up for rubber cultivation.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): തുവ്വക്കാട്ട് റിസർവ്വുചെയ്തിരിക്കുന്ന സ്ഥലത്തിൽ നൂറ് ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ദേവസ്വങ്ങൾക്കു പതിച്ചു കൊടുക്കാനായി ഇട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിഞ്ഞുകൂടാ.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): അവിടെ ഒരു ക്ഷേത്രം ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഉണ്ട്.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): അവിടെ കുടിപാർപ്പുള്ള സ്ഥലങ്ങൾ ഉണ്ടോ? ആ സ്ഥലം കൺസർവേട്ടർ നോക്കീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഞാൻ നോക്കിയപ്പോൾ അവിടെ കുടിപാർപ്പില്ലായിരുന്നു.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Does the site proposed to be reserved surround a temple?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is partly open on the northern side.

MR. KALLUR NARAYANA PILLAI (*Pattanamtitta*): ഒരു നമ്പൂരിയുടെ വക ക്ഷേത്രം ഉണ്ടോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ക്ഷേത്രം റിസർവ്വിനു പുറത്താണ്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): റിസർവ്വു വനങ്ങളിൽ സ്ഥലം പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്തതായി അറിയാമോ?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): അറിയാം.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): കൃഷിവയലുകളുടെ പുറമ്പോക്കു റിസർവു വ്യാപിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

MR. R DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഈ ചോദ്യത്തിനുത്തരംതന്നെയാണു പറഞ്ഞതു്.

MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha* cum *Todupuzha*): കൃഷിവയലിനു പുറമോ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): ഉണ്ടു്.

When there was a rush on this land, the Department was not able to prevent trespass. Magistrates and the Police who were appealed to expressed their inability to prevent the people from trespassing on the land so long as it was not brought under the Forest Regulation. By this time a further area was cleared up and the tree growth felled and set fire to to avoid payment of value later on. It was necessary to prevent such organized encroachment on Government land and the area was therefore declared under Section 4 of the Forest Regulation. Even this year, when I inspected the place, I found that, despite the Forest Rules, ruthless destruction of the forest was going on.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): Will the member please inform the House whether there is any particular efficacy in keeping this area reserved?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): After the notification under Section 4 of the Forest Regulation, a Forest Settlement officer will be appointed whose duty will be to enquire into the claims and if it is found that a particular portion is not fit to be reserved, he will make a recommendation to the Government. Generally the officer will be the Dewan Peishkar himself. So far as the Forest Department is concerned, they have no voice in such matters and they are only to be parties. Mr. Matthew has been telling us that there had been no forest at all in these regions and that it is now under occupation. So far as I know, this is not a fact. Portions permanently occupied are now excluded from the proposed reserve and only recent clearings are included in it. It is to prevent the further clearing and occupation that this area has been brought under Section 4.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Conservator of Forests tell the House whether it is the duty of the Forest Settlement Officer to advise the Forest Department or the Government as to whether a certain area is useful for the purpose of reserving as a Reserved Forest?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is perfectly within his duty to advise Government with regard to the reservation or non-reservation of a particular area.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Is the member aware that the Forest Settlement Officer only decides the claims of private persons with regard to their rights over the land?

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): That is his duty. But all the same there is nothing to prevent him from advising as regards the advisability or non-advisability of reserving the land.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Does the Conservator say that he is not now in a position to advise the Government that the area under consideration is fit to be reserved?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): A portion of the area is not fit to be reserved and I believe such portion is now excluded.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Then why was a portion of the land proposed to be reserved?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It was with the intention of preventing further clearing and destruction of forest.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Is the Forest Department going to utilise the Forest Regulation for taking action against trespassers? My question is whether the Government are going to take action against trespassers by having recourse to the Forest Regulation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): This was a land which Government ordered to be reserved.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): That is not my question. I will ask another question. Is the Conservator aware that there is a certain Regulation called the Land Conservancy Regulation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Yes.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): What is the difference between that and the Forest Regulation?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Government did not want these lands to be registered. So, to prevent the trespass by the people, they definitely ordered that the lands should be reserved. Moreover, this is not a land that comes under the Land Conservancy Regulation.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Does the member say that, but for the fact that the people trespassed into the land, he would not have put the Forest Regulation into force?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No. The idea is to reserve the Forest finally. It was for this that the land has been brought under Section 4 of the Forest Regulation.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): If the land is denuded of all trees, is there any reason for reserving these lands?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): The area can be planted again if necessary. This area is quite good for planting teak.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): I suppose that may be done on other areas also.

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MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, it was also pointed out by some members on the other side that already one-third of the area is under reserved forest. With regard to this, I have to explain to the House that there is an erroneous belief that all the 2,400 square miles of the reserved forests are commercially useful or merchantable. It is seen that, out of these 2,400 square miles, more than 1,400 square miles are barren or rocky lands or from which it is not possible to work down any timber. If we may compare the area of forests in places outside the State we find that, out of an area of about 19,000 square miles in British India, only 27 per cent. consists of valuable forests. In Ceylon the Reserved Forests form about 73 per cent. of the total area of the State. But only 30 per cent. of this area is merchantable. What I want to impress upon the House is that all the 2,400 square miles supposed to be under reservation is not useful so far as the Forest Department is concerned. They have to be reserved not for the sake of timber and other forest produce but for climatic reasons and for protective purposes.

PRESIDENT: Time.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): Another member advocated that all lands fit for cultivation should be disafforested. We have already done so much in this direction. Committees were appointed in several taluks to select and recommend such lands. Several of them have submitted their reports and Government have passed orders by which about 1,000 acres have been made available for paddy cultivation. A few such reports are under consideration by Government.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Were committees appointed for the Tovala and the Kalkulam taluks?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): No.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Does the Conservator mean that there is no necessity for the appointment of committees in those two taluks?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): It is for the member to press upon the Government the necessity for the appointment of committees in those taluks. But I may also tell him for his information that an area of about 300 acres near Tadikkarankonam in the Veerapuli reserve has been disafforested and made available for registration.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Where is Veerapuli?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*): In South Travancore.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner—

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I correct my friend Mr. C. P. Thomas? The official member who is now speaking is not the Excise Commissioner but the Conservator of Forests.

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MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : May I know from the Conservator whether he is in favour of disafforesting areas within the swampy portions ?

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : That is a matter to be decided upon by the committees themselves and I am not in a position to say anything on that.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*) : Mr. Kunjitomman said that, though the non-officials wanted to include those areas, the Government did not do so.

MR. R. DHANUKOTI PILLAI (*Conservator of Forests*) : So far as I know, the Government are not against it. In such cases I was asked by Government to offer my opinion. I have gone and inspected such lands and in some cases I have recommended to Government that certain lands not included by the Division officers may be included for disafforestation.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*) : So far as I can understand, the place referred to is not available at present as a reserved forest area. I am speaking subject to corection. The Conservator, I think, desires to bring it under his control with a view to plant it up subsequently as a reserved forest area. If that is his idea, I think there is enough land within the forests which can be subjected to this operation of the Forest Department. We know that this kind of conservation is not a profitable concern for the Forest Department. Except for teak plantations, we have not got anything like a systematic planting of trees as we find in European countries like Germany and other places. Here there is nothing like it. Now, it is admitted that the place has been denuded of all valuable timber and people have been trying to open it up in very large numbers. Under these circumstances, it will be iniquitous for the Forest Department to bring it under the Forest Regulation and drive the people summarily after all the trouble and expense to which they have been put in cultivating and settling on the land. I think that kind of policy should be strictly discouraged. Years ago, when the Forest Department was being created, I know several valuable plots of land which had been under the occupation of private individuals for years and years were summarily brought under the Forest Regulation and these poor people did not know how to get out of the clutches of this Regulation. Of course, it may be started by the lower subordinates of the Forest Department who may have some enmity to the owner of the land. He moves the machinery until at last the whole weight of the Government is brought to bear upon the poor person who is quite helpless and the whole area which has been kept by himself and his predecessors becomes forest land. One conspicuous example of that is the encroachment of Ranni Karta's land. It is a very sad history which everybody knows. The family had been ruling princes.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*) : May I know whether we are justified in discussing individual cases like this ?

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MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI (*Commerce and Industry, North*): I am mentioning only an instance. If it is objected to, I shall not refer to it. The policy pursued by the Forest Department has led to very serious injustice to individuals and I am surprised that the Forest Department is not still satisfied with the land they have already got and want to get more and more land under its clutches. It is very unjustifiable.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): I am very glad Sir, that the Conservator in his reply had nothing to say about the serious allegations I made that 75 per cent. of the area to which I made a reference had been planted up with trees, and that that area had been occupied and inhabited. The only defence he could make was that the Government had made up their mind some time ago to conserve this part of the area and the Forest Regulation was put into force simply for the purpose of preventing those people from trespassing into the property. I beg to submit, that ought not to be the policy to be followed under the Forest Regulation. I also bring to the notice of Government that, if this area to which I made particular reference is conserved, about 700 families belonging to the poor sections of the State will have to get out of the area to wander about the State. I deprecate the idea of the Conservator of Forests that the Forest Regulation ought to be used in order to prevent people from trespassing. I was under the impression that forest conservation was resorted to with regard to areas of land which are not needed by the people and the conservation of which would be useful for general purposes. The very fact that this portion is now inhabited shows that this is not a place which can be reserved. I do not want to jeopardise Mr. Dhanukoti Pillai by taking away Rs. 100 from his pocket. I wanted only to bring this fact to the notice of Government and I withdraw the motion.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I object to the withdrawal of the motion. The motion should be put to the vote of the House.

MR. V. SUBBA AIYAR (*Nominated*) (*Deputy President*): If a member objects to the withdrawal of a motion, the question is, "Does the House allow the withdrawal?

PRESIDENT: I shall take the sense of the House.

The question of permitting the withdrawal was put to the vote of the House and the motion was allowed to be withdrawn by a majority.

Motion 65.

The following motion was not moved:—

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI:

65. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 7·95 lakhs under demand IV by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I take it that the House agrees to Demand IV—Forest—Rs. 7·95 lakhs.

The demand was carried and the grant was made.

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